

House Republican Press Release

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Governor's Comprehensive Transportation Finally Passes General Assembly



HARTFORD- At the beginning of the session in January, Governor Rell introduced a significant \$1.3 billion Transportation package which she highlighted as a priority for Connecticut. The transportation problems that have bogged down commuters and tourists on our roadways, railways and bus routes have gone without being meaningfully addressed for far too long. Representative David Scribner (R-Brookfield), Ranking Member of the legislature's Transportation Committee helped shepherd the Governor's initiative through the legislature, only to have the Senate majority refuse to take up the package in the final hours of the regular session in a politically calculated effort to rob the Governor of a victory.

In the early morning hours of this past Wednesday, the initiative finally passed both houses of the legislature as it met in special session.

Governor Rell proposed adding 340 more rail cars to Metro-North, \$187 million in improvements to primary interstates, and \$150 million in improving other state and interstate roadways. She also proposed \$7.5 million on new transit buses.

The bill invests \$300 million in the New Haven Line maintenance facility which will be constructed over the next six years, \$667 million for 342 new self-propelled rail cars on the New haven Line for delivery between 2009-2015, \$187 million for improvements to Interstate 95 from Greenwich to North Stonington, \$7.5 million for additional transit buses, and \$150 million for highway improvements on highways other than I-95.

"The investments proposed in this bill will make some very meaningful changes to Connecticut's transportation infrastructure," said **Representative Scribner**. "The condition of Connecticut's railways and highways are stressed, poorly maintained, and over-burdened. This measure will begin the important process of turning that around. I am glad that the majority leaders in the state senate have come to their senses and approved this measure."